

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington DC, 20500

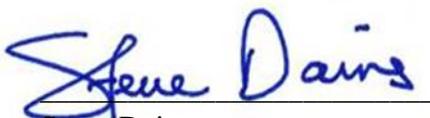
Dear President Biden,

We write today in support of the State of Montana's major disaster declaration request as a result of the severe flooding in northeast and south-central Montana. On June 23, 2023, Governor Greg Gianforte submitted a request for a major disaster declaration under Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. We support the Governor's request and urge its immediate approval.

During the month of March, Montana experienced unseasonably cold and wet weather, which led to increased snowpack at lower elevations not typically seen during that time of year. During the first week of April, Montana experienced sustained high temperatures, including some areas experiencing temperatures up to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. As a result, low elevation snowpack quickly melted, depositing large volumes of runoff into the Milk River system very quickly, overwhelming the Milk, Shields, and Poplar rivers. This, in conjunction with rapidly melting snowpack at higher elevations, led to surface ice on rivers being broken up by increased water flow causing dangerous ice jams. Due to these culminating factors, the region experienced sustained flooding in which some areas floodwaters did not recede for weeks.

The damage done to rural roads, bridges, culverts, and other infrastructure essential to everyday life for Montana families, farmers and ranchers, and businesses is far beyond what the state and counties can alleviate. Noting the sheer number of disasters Montana has experienced over the last few years, including devastating floods along the Yellowstone River last year, federal assistance is essential. We urge you to promptly approve this request for a major disaster declaration and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.  
United States Congressman



Ryan K. Zinke  
United States Congressman